UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/PRST/1998/3
13 February 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3854th meeting of the Security Council, held on 13 February 1998 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Croatia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the successful completion of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), as described in the report of the Secretary-General of 22 January 1998 (S/1998/59). The experience of this multifunctional operation may be useful for similar situations in the future.

"The Security Council commends the commitment shown by the Government of the Republic of Croatia to the implementation of its comprehensive programme of national reconciliation, and stresses the need for continued progress in this regard. The Council is also encouraged by signs of increasing participation in Croatian political life by the region's ethnic Serb citizens, and underlines the importance of continued efforts by the Government of the Republic of Croatia to ensure full participation by the Serb minority in the political life of the country, including through urgent funding of the Joint Council of Municipalities.

"The Security Council notes that, despite the positive conclusion of UNTAES and the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, including its request for the establishment of the civilian police support group, much remains to be done. The Government of the Republic of Croatia remains responsible for the rights and safety of members of all ethnic groups within the Republic of Croatia and bound by its obligations and commitments under the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (S/1995/951) and other international agreements. In this regard, the Council calls upon the Government of the Republic of Croatia to intensify its efforts to promote full reintegration of the region, in particular to resolve property issues and other problems which are hindering the return of refugees and displaced persons, to protect human rights, including by taking action against harassment, to

address in full uncertainties about the implementation of the Amnesty Law and to take measures to improve public confidence in the Croatian police.

"In this context, the Security Council emphasizes the key role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) throughout the Republic of Croatia, including in the Danubian region. The Council strongly supports the closest possible cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE, in particular between the OSCE mission and the support group and other United Nations offices and agencies in the Republic of Croatia as envisaged by the Secretary-General, and, to that end, encourages the support group and the OSCE mission to keep each other fully informed.

"The Security Council pays tribute to the dedicated men and women of UNTAES, and, in particular, expresses its appreciation to the Transitional Administrators and the Force Commanders for their leadership of the UNTAES mission."

UNITED
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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/PRST/1998/4
24 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3856th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 February 1998, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan of 10 February 1998 (S/1998/113), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of its resolution 1138 (1997) of 14 November 1997.

"The Security Council regrets that during the last three months work on the implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan (S/1997/510) and the relevant activities of the Commission on National Reconciliation (CNR) have proceeded very slowly. It welcomes recent efforts made by the parties in order to fulfil their obligations. The Council calls upon them to intensify their efforts to implement fully the General Agreement, including the Protocol on military issues (S/1997/209, annex II). It also encourages the CNR to continue its efforts aimed at the institution of a broad dialogue among the various political forces as foreseen in the General Agreement.

"The Security Council commends the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the personnel of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for their work and encourages them to continue assisting the parties in the implementation of the General Agreement. It welcomes the results of the international donor conference in support of peace and reconciliation in Tajikistan convened by the Secretary-General in Vienna on 24 and 25 November 1997, and looks forward to the contribution of those results to consolidating the peace process in Tajikistan.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern that the security situation in some parts of Tajikistan remains precarious. It reminds both parties that the international community is ready to continue assisting in the implementation of the General Agreement as well as in humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes, but that its ability to do so and also the

ability of UNMOT to carry out its tasks more effectively is linked to improvements in security conditions.

"The Security Council firmly condemns the hostage-taking of relief workers that took place in November 1997 and urges the parties to cooperate further in ensuring the security and freedom of movement of the personnel of the United Nations, the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (the CIS Peacekeeping Forces) and other international personnel, and to take practical steps in this respect, such as those mentioned in paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General.

"The Security Council welcomes the presidential decree establishing a joint security unit with the task of providing security, including armed escorts, for UNMOT personnel and calls upon the parties to make the unit operational as soon as possible. It also welcomes the readiness of the CIS Peacekeeping Forces to arrange for the guarding of United Nations premises in Dushanbe, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages UNMOT and the CIS Peacekeeping Forces to make the relevant detailed arrangements.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue the expansion of UNMOT to the strength authorized by its resolution 1138 (1997) as soon as the Secretary-General deems conditions appropriate."

UNITED
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Security Council

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S/PRST/1998/5
26 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3857th meeting of the Security Council, held on 26 February 1998, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Sierra Leone", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, and the statements of its President of 27 May 1997 (S/PRST/1997/29), 11 July 1997 (S/PRST/1997/36) and 6 August 1997 (S/PRST/1997/42), following the military coup d'état in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It expresses its deep regret at the violence, loss of life and property and immense suffering undergone by the people of Sierra Leone since the coup. It remains gravely concerned at the continued violence in the country and calls for an urgent end to the fighting.

"The Security Council welcomes the fact that the rule of the military junta has been brought to an end, and stresses the imperative need for the immediate restoration of the democratically elected Government of President Tejan Kabbah and a return to constitutional order, in accordance with paragraph 1 of its resolution 1132 (1997).

"The Security Council encourages the earliest possible return to Freetown by President Kabbah and looks forward to his re-establishing a functioning and autonomous government in the country.

"The Security Council expresses its readiness to terminate the measures imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 of its resolution 1132 (1997) as soon as the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of that resolution have been fulfilled.

"The Security Council commends the important role that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has continued to play towards the peaceful resolution of this crisis. The Security Council encourages the Military Observer Group of ECOWAS (ECOMOG) to proceed in its efforts to foster peace and stability in Sierra Leone, in accordance with relevant

provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. It underlines the need for close cooperation between the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone, ECOWAS, and in particular its Committee of Five Foreign Ministers on Sierra Leone, ECOMOG commanders, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and his staff, United Nations agencies and relevant international organizations in their work, and specifically on the development of a plan for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into civilian life of all combatants in Sierra Leone. In this context, it supports the intention of the Secretary-General, subject to security conditions on the ground, to take rapid steps towards the reopening of the United Nations Liaison Office in Freetown in order to support the activities of his Special Envoy, and in particular to assist national reconciliation and political dialogue.

"The Security Council expresses the view that the Conakry Agreement (S/1997/824, Annexes I and II) and the Abidjan Agreement (S/1996/1034) provide important elements for a framework for peace, stability and national reconciliation in Sierra Leone. It calls upon all parties in Sierra Leone to work towards these objectives through peaceful means and political dialogue. In this regard, it condemns all reprisal killings and related violence in Sierra Leone and calls for an immediate end to such acts.

"The Security Council looks forward to detailed proposals by the Secretary-General concerning the role of the United Nations and its future presence in Sierra Leone. It requests the Secretary-General to establish a Trust Fund to support such activities and calls on all Member States to make early contributions to it.

"The Security Council welcomes the interim report of the Inter-Agency Assessment Mission to Sierra Leone of 10 February 1998 (S/1998/155) and commends those Member States and international organizations who have provided urgent humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone. It remains deeply concerned about the serious and fragile humanitarian situation in the country, and calls upon all States and international organizations to provide further urgent assistance to Sierra Leone and neighbouring countries affected by the crisis. It calls on ECOMOG and all those concerned to ensure safe and unrestricted access to those in need.

"The Security Council expresses its concern about the safety of all humanitarian personnel in Sierra Leone, and condemns the taking of hostages by former members of the deposed junta. It calls for the immediate release of all international personnel and others who have been detained or held hostage. It commends ECOMOG for its efforts to liberate those individuals being held against their will.

"The Security Council will remain seized of this matter."

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/PRST/1998/6
6 March 1998
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3859th meeting of the Security Council, held on 6 March 1998, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Croatia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its concern at the Croatian Government's lack of compliance with obligations assumed under the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (S/1995/951), the Croatian Government's letter of 13 January 1997 (S/1997/27, annex) and the agreement of 23 April 1997 between the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Croatian Government concerning the return of refugees and displaced persons. The Council notes that the overall security situation in the Danube region remains relatively stable, but is particularly concerned about increasing incidence of harassment and intimidation of the local Serb community in the region and the failure of the Croatian Government to apply the process of national reconciliation in an effective way at the local level. This worrying situation, together with recent statements by the Croatian authorities, cast doubt upon the Republic of Croatia's commitment to include ethnic Serbs and persons from other minorities as full and equal members of Croatian society.

"The Security Council, recalling the statement by its President of 13 February 1998 (S/PRST/1998/3) and having noted the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia of 5 March 1998 (S/1998/197), calls upon the Croatian Government publicly to reaffirm and by its actions to demonstrate its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Basic Agreement and other agreements in full, including through progress on national reconciliation at every level. In particular, the Council calls upon the Croatian Government to take prompt and unequivocal steps to ensure the safety, security and rights of all Croatian citizens and to build confidence among the Serb community throughout Croatia, including by providing promised funding for the Joint Council of Municipalities. These steps should include measures to create the

conditions to allow local Serbs to remain in the region, to facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons and to address underlying practical and economic issues which inhibit returns. The Council calls upon the Croatian Government to: establish clear procedures for the documentation of refugees from Croatia; issue an equitable plan for nationwide two-way returns; implement fully and fairly its legislation on amnesty; act promptly to pass equitable property and tenancy rights legislation which would encourage returns and stimulate additional international reconstruction assistance; ensure fair employment benefit practices and equal economic opportunity; and ensure the non-discriminatory application of the rule of law.

"The Security Council recognizes that, since the end of the UNTAES mandate, the performance of the Croatian police has been generally satisfactory, and in this context expresses its appreciation and support for the work of the United Nations civilian police support group. The Council notes, however, that public confidence in the police is low. The Council calls upon the Croatian Government to take measures, including through public information and police preventive action, to improve public confidence in the police as part of a wider programme of measures to prevent ethnically motivated crime and ensure the protection and equal treatment of all Croatian citizens, regardless of ethnicity.

"The Security Council stresses that, following the termination of UNTAES, responsibility for the full reintegration of the Danube region lies clearly with the Croatian Government. The United Nations will continue to work closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in monitoring the situation and reminding the Croatian Government of its obligations."

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/PRST/1998/7
19 March 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3862nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 March 1998, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council **welcomes** the announcement of the decision on 15 March 1998 relating to Brcko by the Arbitral Tribunal pursuant to Article V, Annex 2 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Annexes thereto (collectively the Peace Agreement, S/1995/999, annex) and to the Award of 14 February 1997 (S/1997/126).

"The Security Council, recalling that the 1997 Award helped to promote the start of a peaceful, orderly and phased return process in Brcko and the beginnings of the establishment of a multi-ethnic administration, considers that the decision of 15 March 1998 represents the best interests of the peace process. The Council commends the efforts of the Presiding Arbitrator and of the International Supervisor for Brcko.

"The Security Council calls upon the Parties to Annex 2 to the Peace Agreement to implement the decision without delay, as they are obliged to do. The Council underscores the importance of prompt and full cooperation by the parties to the Peace Agreement in carrying out their commitments to implement the Peace Agreement in its entirety, including cooperation with the International Supervisor for Brcko and the Office of the High Representative."

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Security Council

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S/PRST/1998/7*
20 March 1998

ENGLISH ONLY

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3862nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 March 1998, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the announcement of the decision on 15 March 1998 relating to Brčko by the Arbitral Tribunal pursuant to article V, Annex 2, to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Annexes thereto (collectively the 'Peace Agreement', S/1995/999, annex) and to the Award of 14 February 1997 (S/1997/126).

"The Security Council, recalling that the 1997 Award helped to promote the start of a peaceful, orderly and phased return process in Brčko and the beginnings of the establishment of a multi-ethnic administration, considers that the decision of 15 March 1998 represents the best interests of the peace process. The Council commends the efforts of the Presiding Arbitrator and of the International Supervisor for Brčko.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties to Annex 2 to the Peace Agreement to implement the decision without delay, as they are obliged to do. The Council underscores the importance of prompt and full cooperation by the parties to the Peace Agreement in carrying out their commitments to implement the Peace Agreement in its entirety, including cooperation with the International Supervisor for Brčko and the Office of the High Representative."

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/PRST/1998/8
25 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3866th meeting of the Security Council, held on 25 March 1998, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The question concerning Haiti", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 1141 (1997) of 28 November 1997 and welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) of 20 February 1998 (S/1998/144).

"The Security Council commends the achievements of the Secretary-General's Representative in Haiti, the United Nations staff, and the MIPONUH civilian police officers in Haiti. It notes with appreciation the important contributions made by the United Nations Development Programme and the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH).

"The Security Council welcomes the progress made by the Haitian people towards the establishment of a durable democratic and constitutional system. It also welcomes the sustained improvement in security and stability in Haiti. The Security Council agrees with the Secretary-General in his assessment of the Haitian National Police (HNP) as expressed in his recent report (S/1998/144). It also welcomes the significant progress made by the HNP as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General and expresses confidence that MIPONUH's activities will continue to build on the achievements of previous United Nations missions in Haiti and to further the professional development of the HNP. The Security Council expresses the hope that HNP achievements will be matched by progress in other areas, including the development of a functioning judicial system, and in this regard, recognizes the importance of judicial reform.

"The Security Council reaffirms that further assistance to the Haitian National Police, should it be needed, should be provided with the full support of the international community through United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, and through international and regional organizations and by interested Member States.

"The Security Council reaffirms also that the people and Government of Haiti bear the ultimate responsibility for national reconciliation, the maintenance of a secure and stable environment, the administration of justice, and the reconstruction of their country. It emphasizes the importance of Haiti's continuing to settle its contentious issues peacefully and democratically. It expresses the view that a prompt solution of these issues in Haiti will facilitate economic development and the provision of international assistance. It fully supports the Secretary-General's appeal to Haitian authorities and political leaders to resolve Haiti's political impasse so the country can move forward and welcomes current efforts undertaken to this end.

"The Security Council stresses that it is of the utmost importance that the next parliamentary and local elections in Haiti be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner in order to allow the broadest possible voter participation, consistent with Haitian law. It notes that a substantial effort will be required to ensure the success of these vitally important elections. The Security Council looks forward to the steps taken by the Government of Haiti in this regard and urges the international community to be ready to provide electoral assistance as may be requested.

"The Security Council recognizes that economic rehabilitation and reconstruction constitute the major tasks facing the Haitian Government and people and stresses that a sustained commitment by the international community and the international financial institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations bodies, to assist and support the economic, social and institutional development in Haiti is indispensable for long-term sustainable development in the country. It commends the efforts of those organizations and countries currently involved in meeting these needs and encourages them to coordinate their activities.

"The Security Council will remain seized of this matter."